UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Civil Action No.:
· :
COMPLAINT
: :

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Andy Rawlins, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

JURISDICTION

- 1. This action arises out of Defendants' repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA"), and the invasions of Plaintiff's personal privacy by the Defendants and its agents in their illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.
 - 2. Supplemental jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- 3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that the Defendants transact business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

PARTIES

4. The Plaintiff, Andy Rawlins ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Brighton, Massachusetts, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

- 5. Defendant Conserve ("Conserve"), is a New York business entity with an address of 200 Cross Keys Office Park, Fairport, New York 14450-0007, operating as a collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 6. Does 1-10 (the "Collectors") are individual collectors employed by Conserve and whose identities are currently unknown to the Plaintiff. One or more of the Collectors may be joined as parties once their identities are disclosed through discovery.
 - 7. Conserve at all times acted by and through one or more of the Collectors.

ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS

A. The Debt

- 8. The Plaintiff allegedly incurred a financial obligation in the approximate amount of \$58,000.00 (the "Debt") to an original creditor (the "Creditor").
- 9. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meets the definition of a "debt" under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
- 10. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to Conserve for collection, or Conserve was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.
- 11. The Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in "communications" as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

B. Conserve Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics

12. On July 16, 2012, Conserve placed a phone call to Plaintiff's place of employment and left a message with a receptionist stating that Conserve called and requested a call back from Plaintiff.

- 13. Upon contacting Conserve Plaintiff learned that Conserve had obtained his student loan for collection.
- 14. Conserve presented Plaintiff with three payment options. However, Plaintiff informed Conserve he could not afford any of the options and suggested to make monthly payments in the amount of \$200.00.
- 15. In its response Conserve laughed at Plaintiff and said: "Why are you playing games? You have a debt to pay."
- 16. Plaintiff stated that he would contact Conserve when he could afford to make bigger payments. Plaintiff requested that Conserve not place calls to his workplace and instead contact him at his cellular phone line after business hours.
- 17. Nonetheless, Conserved placed another call to Plaintiff's place of employment on July 17, 2012.
 - 18. And yet another one on July 18, 2012.

C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages

- 19. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct.
- 20. As a direct consequence of the Defendants' acts, practices and conduct, the Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment.

COUNT I VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.

21. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

- 22. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(a)(1) in that Defendants contacted the Plaintiff at a place and during a time known to be inconvenient for the Plaintiff.
- 23. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(a)(3) in that Defendants contacted the Plaintiff at his place of employment, knowing that the Plaintiff's employer prohibited such communications.
- 24. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d in that Defendants engaged in behavior the natural consequence of which was to harass, oppress, or abuse the Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 25. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.
 - 26. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendants' violations.

COUNT II INVASION OF PRIVACY BY INTRUSION UPON SECLUSION

- 27. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 28. The Restatement of Torts, Second, § 652(b) defines intrusion upon seclusion as, "One who intentionally intrudes…upon the solitude or seclusion of another, or his private affairs or concerns, is subject to liability to the other for invasion of privacy, if the intrusion would be highly offensive to a reasonable person."
- 29. Massachusetts further recognizes the Plaintiff's right to be free from invasions of privacy, thus Defendant violated Massachusetts state law.
- 30. The Defendant intentionally intruded upon Plaintiff's right to privacy by continually harassing the Plaintiff with daily calls.

- 31. The conduct of the Defendant in engaging in the illegal collection activities resulted in multiple invasions of privacy in such a way as would be considered highly offensive to a reasonable person.
- 32. As a result of the intrusions and invasions, the Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages in an amount to be determined at trial from Defendant.
- 33. All acts of Defendant and its agents were committed with malice, intent, wantonness, and recklessness, and as such, Defendant is subject to punitive damages.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against Defendants:

- 1. Actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1) against Defendants;
- 2. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(2)(A) against Defendants;
- 3. Costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C.§ 1692k(a)(3) against Defendants;
- 4. Actual damages from Defendants for the all damages including emotional distress suffered as a result of the intentional, reckless, and/or negligent FDCPA violations and intentional, reckless, and/or negligent invasions of privacy in an amount to be determined at trial for the Plaintiff;
- 5. Punitive damages; and
- 6. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: July 30, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

By <u>/s/ Sergei Lemberg</u>

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